

Honors Jacob Carl Mohr of Kent and other Veterans

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WASHINGTON – Recently, Congressman Tim Ryan introduced legislation allowing greater access to government-furnished headstones/markers or gravestone medallions for deceased veterans.

"We owe a debt of gratitude to those that serve our country, keep us safe, and, in some cases, pay the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom," said Ryan. "This bill ensures all those that serve America, regardless of when they die, are remembered for their service and thanked long after they're gone. Providing headstones, markers or medallions to honor our Veterans is the least we can do for those that have done so much for us and our liberties."

Congressman Ryan's legislation updates existing law by removing an arbitrary eligibility date. When Congressman Ryan's bill becomes law, all veterans, regardless of whether they died after November 1, 1990, will be eligible for a VA furnished headstone/marker or gravestone medallion.

This legislation was inspired by a letter written by Eileen Mohr of Kent, a constituent of the 17th Congressional District. Ms. Mohr contacted Congressman Ryan's office because a legal technicality prevented her deceased grandfather, Jacob Carl Mohr, from receiving a headstone or marker from the VA to commemorate his service.

"The introduction of this legislation is a thrill to the family of Jacob Carl Mohr, Sr., a Second Lieutenant of Infantry in the U.S. Army during World War I," said Eileen Mohr. "Passage of this legislation will allow our family to obtain a marker/medallion on his headstone in a private

cemetery near Buffalo, NY, even though he passed away in November 1972, it removes an arbitrary 1990 eligibility date. As a family, we worried that as we aged, we would be unable to continue to mark his grave on key holidays with an American flag. This legislation will ensure that our father/grandfather, and so many other deserving Veterans like him, will be able to continue to receive the honor and recognition that they so richly deserve. On behalf of the entire family of Jacob Carl Mohr, Sr., and all Veterans, our sincere thanks to Congressman Tim Ryan!"

A copy of this legislation can be found here: http://timryan.house.gov/images/legislation/ryanoh_005_xml.pdf

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